

us to be nothing else than the degrading of one part of God's works, in the hope thereby of exalting and recommending another. It is at all times perilous on the part of the votaries, whether of science or religion, to set the branches of knowledge which they severally prosecute against each other. On the one hand, science cannot accomplish ends truly beneficent, if it make an idol of God's works, and, Parsee-like, worship the sun, and moon, and elements of nature; and, on the other hand, religion is unnecessarily raising prejudices against itself, and is truly dishonouring God—while it may profess to honour him—when it would discourage inquiry into those works which he has spread around us, which are manifestly inviting us to contemplate and admire them, and rewarding us by a thousand discoveries, when we treat them as we ought to treat the Divine workmanship, and investigate them with patience and with reverence.

Perilous as it is at all times for the friends of religion to set themselves against natural science, it is especially so in an age like the present. We live at a time when all our educated youth are instructed in the elements of natural science, as well as in the more sacred doctrines of theology. We fear that there are many who know not how to reconcile the two faiths in which they have been educated. Meanwhile studious attempts are being made to show that Christianity cannot stand the light of the age in which we live. The impression left is very painful, when the mind imagines that it discovers a discrepancy between two departments of knowledge in which it has been trained, as painful as if one were to hear it reported of a revered friend, a parent, or brother, that he had committed a dishonourable or criminal action. Thousands have felt in this way, and thousands are at this present time so feeling, as they turn from secular books of science to the Bible, and when they enter

our upper
schools, our mechanics institutions, and colleges.
The heart of
many a youth of promise has been wrung, till
feelings more
bitter than tears have burst from it, as he stood
by the chasm
over which no bridge seemed to be thrown. A
dark cloud of
doubt arising from that gulf has brooded over and
settled upon
many a mind, and has produced the same effects
as a wet and
cloudy atmosphere upon the body, damping by its
moist and
heavy influence all generous confidence, all zeal
and enthusiasm.
Others, abandoning religion, as laying restraints
upon them to